

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending.

Claim 3 stand objected to because of informalities.

Claims 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by *Bird* et al. (US Patent 6,108,438).

Objection - Claim 3

Claim 3 has been objected to because of informalities. Claim 3 has been amended to now depend from Claim 1.

Rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph – claim 13

Claim 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. The office action alleges that there are not teachings of a second signal generator as claimed in the specification. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 13 is supported by the present specification at paragraphs [0033] and [0036]. “Signal generator(s) 716 represents one or more signal generators...” As such, the claims meet the statutory requirements.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(b) – claims 1-27

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by *Bird* et al. (US Patent 6,108,438). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A claim must be anticipated for a proper rejection under §102(a), (b), and (e). This requirement is satisfied “only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference”; see MPEP §2131 and *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil*, 814 F.2d 628, 2 USPQ2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1984). A rejection under §102(b) may be overcome by showing that the claims are patentably distinguishable from the prior art; see MPEP §706.02(b).

Bird describes a fingerprint sensing device. The office action alleges that “a conductive structure adjacent to the pixel array corresponding to for example, FIG. 1, block 18 and 20.”

In contrast, the presently claimed invention claims “the conductive structure **exposed for physical contact with a body part of a user**” as described in the specification at paragraph [0029]. *Bird* does not teach or suggest the above limitation. Block 18 and 20 of FIG. 1 corresponds to row and column conductors 18 and 20. These row and column conductors connect the electrodes 33 and located on the same level as the electrodes, under the insulator 25. See FIG. 1 of *Bird*. As such, conductors 18 and 20 are not exposed for physical contact with a body part of a user.

Further, *Bird* does not teach or suggest the limitations of Claims 16 and 26. *Bird* is silent as to “driving a first charge **to the finger** and through to the finger into at least one of the plurality of storage capacitors.” The office action points to Col. 10, lines 10-35 to show such teachings. Applicants respectfully disagree and have amended the claims to further particularly point out the limitations of the claims. *Bird* teaches reversing the polarity of the diodes along with the drive signals “so that negative and positive signals are then applied to the row conductors and column conductors respectively rather than the positive and negative signals described previously.” *Bird* is silent as to driving any charge **to the finger**.

The presently claimed invention is, accordingly, distinguishable over the cited reference. In the view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that claims 1-27 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the amended claims are now in proper form, and that the amended claims all define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Request for allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

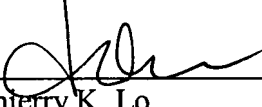
Extension of Time

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: July 2, 2007


Thierry K. Lo
Reg. No. 49,097

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4040
(408) 720-8300